
HEAVENLY GIFTS

A DAILY MEMENTO OF
CARDINAL NEWMAN

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HEAVENLY GIFTS.

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AND
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HEAVENLY GIFTS

*FROM THE WRITINGS OF
CARDINAL NEWMAN.*

SELECTED AND ARRANGED FOR EVERY
DAY IN THE YEAR

BY

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- M. & D.—Meditations and Devotions.
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- D. M. C.—Discourses to Mixed Congregations.
4th Edition, 1871.
- D. of A.—Difficulties of Anglicans.
Vol. 1. 5th Edition, 1879.
- „ —Difficulties of Anglicans.
Vol. 2. New Edition, 1896.
- S. S. D.—Sermons on Subjects of the Day, 1843.
- O. U. S.—Oxford University Sermons.
3rd Edition, 1872.
- L. J. —Lectures on Justification.
6th Edition, 1892.
- S. V. O.—Sermons Preached on Various
Occasions. New Impression, 1904.
- P. P. S.—Parochial and Plain Sermons.
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LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT.

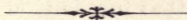
BY CARDINAL NEWMAN.

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
 Lead Thou me on !
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
 Lead Thou me on !
Keep Thou my feet ; I do not ask to see
The distant scene ; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
 Should'st lead me on ;
I loved to choose and see my path ; but now
 Lead Thou me on !
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will : remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
 Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

HEAVENLY GIFTS.



January 1.

LET us turn our mind heavenward ; let us set our thoughts on things above, and in His own time God will set our affections there also.

S.S.D. 58.

January 2.

To have faith in God is to surrender one's self to God, humbly to put one's interests, or wish to be allowed to put them into His hands who is the sovereign Giver of all good.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 80.

January 3.

EVERYONE who tries to do God's will, is sure to find he cannot do it perfectly. He will feel himself to be full of imperfection and sin, and the more he succeeds in regulating his heart, the more he will discern its original bitterness and guilt.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 20.

January 4.

GIVE me that life, O God, suitable to my own need, which is stored up for us all in Him who is the Life of all men.

M. & D. 597.

January 5.

LET us put ourselves into God's hands. Let us be sure He will lead us right, that He will bring us to that which is, not indeed what we think best, nor what is best for another, but what is best for us.

M. & D. 398.

January 6.

LET us guard against abusing our happy lot, while we have it, or we may lose it for having abused it.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 111.

January 7.

JESUS is our best friend, our True Father, the only real Lover of our souls. He takes all means to make us love Him in return, and He refuses us nothing if we do.

M. & D. 282.

January 8

As God's grace elicits our faith, so His holiness stirs our fears, and His glory kindles our love.

L.J. 337.

January 9.

LET us come to God honestly: we cannot help ourselves; we do not know ourselves; we need His grace.

S.S.D. 88.

January 10.

FOR all seasons we must thank God for time of sorrow and time of joy, time of warfare and time of peace. And the more we thank Him for the one, the more we shall be drawn to thank Him for the other.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 84

January 11.

GOD was all-complete, all-blessed in Himself; but it was His will to create a world for His glory. We are all created to His glory—we are created to do His will.

————— M. & D. 399.

January 12.

IT is obedience which brings a man into the right path; it is obedience keeps him there and strengthens him in it.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 230.

January 13.

FAITH and devotion are as distinct in fact as they are in idea. We cannot, indeed, be devout without faith, but we may believe without feeling devotion.

D. of A., Vol. 2, 26.

January 14.

To all, God gives grace sufficient for their salvation; to all, He gives far more than they have any right to expect; and they can claim nothing; but to some He gives far more than to others.

D M.C. 30.

January 15.

LET us try to be very humble, to understand our ignorance, and to rely constantly on the enlightening grace of our Great Teacher.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 112.

January 16.

NOTHING is clearer than this, that if faith in God's word is required of us for salvation, the Catholic Church is the only medium by which we can exercise it.

D.M.C., 232.

January 17.

O GOD, Thou art the living Flame, and ever burnest with love of man: enter into me and set me on fire after Thy pattern and likeness.

M. & D., 599.

January 18.

WE should all of us be saved a great deal of suffering of various kinds, if we would but persuade ourselves that we are not the best judges, whether of our own condition, or of God's will towards us.

S.S.D., 55.

January 19.

OH, look well to your footing that you slip not; be very much afraid lest the world should detain you; dare not in anything to fall short of God's grace, or to lag behind when that grace goes forward.

D. of A., Vol. I., 360.

January 20.

A TRUE friend is he who speaks out, and, when a man sins, shows him that he is displeased at the sin.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 186.

January 21.

By perfect, we mean that which has no flaw in it, that which is complete, that which is consistent, that which is sound — we mean the opposite to imperfect.

M. & D., 382.

January 22.

WE can do nothing right, unless God gives us the will and power; we cannot please Him without the aid of His Holy Spirit.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 185.

January 23.

How constant is God in His love? He has loved us from the time of Adam. He has said from the beginning, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

M. & D., 403.

January 24.

MAKE up your minds to take God for your portion, and pray to Him for grace to enable you to do so.

P.P.S., Vol. VIII., 73.

January 25.

God promises that if we bring children to Him for His blessing, He will bless us for bringing them; if we receive them for His sake, He will make it as if we received Himself, which is the greatest reward He could give.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 293.

January 26.

MAY that bright and gentle Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, overcome you with her sweetness, and revenge herself on her foes by interceding effectually for their conversion.

D. of A., Vol. 2., 118.

January 27.

We can do nothing good of ourselves; with God's grace we can do what is good. With His grace we are gifted not only with the capacity of being led into truth and holiness, but with the power of co-operating with Him.

L.J. 94.

January 28.

PRAYERS uttered in secret, according to God's will, are treasured up in God's book of life.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 245.

January 29.

JUSTIFICATION takes us at Baptism out of original sin and leads us all through life towards the purity of Angels.

L.J. 102.

January 30.

OBEDIENCE is the consequence of willing to obey, and faith is the consequence of willing to believe ; we may see what is right, whether in matters of faith or obedience, of ourselves, but we cannot will what is right without the grace of God.

D.M.C. 226.

January 31.

HOLY art Thou in all Thy works, O Lord, and, if there is sin in the world it is not from Thee—it is from an enemy, it is from me and mine.

M. & D. 516

February 1.

WE are not told the secret of our guilty nature, till we are told the means to escape from it; we are not told of God's fearful wrath, till we are told of His love in Christ.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 295.

February 2.

IN justifying, God takes away what is past, by bringing in what is new. He snatches us out of the fire by lifting us in His everlasting hands, and enwrapping us in His own glory.

L.J., 102.

February 3.

IT is not that sorrowing for sin is wrong when we *have* sinned, but the *sinning* is wrong which causes the sorrowing.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 67.

February 4.

WE can take no comfort to ourselves that we are God's own, merely on the ground of great deeds or great sufferings. The greatest sacrifice without love would be nothing worth, and that they are great does not necessarily prove they are done with love.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 328.

February 5.

GOD alone is in heaven, God is all in all. Eternal Lord, I acknowledge this truth, and I adore Thee in this sovereign and most glorious mystery.

M. & D. 587.

February 6.

BLESSED be God, we were all made His children, before we had actually sinned; we began life in purity and innocence. Intercession is never more appropriate than when sin had been utterly abolished, and the heart was most affectionate and least selfish.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 354.

February 7.

No one can be a Catholic without a simple faith, that what the Church declares in God's name, is God's word, and therefore true.

D.M.C. 216.

February 8.

DISOBEDIENCE blinds the conscience, obedience makes it keen-sighted and sensitive.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 160.

February 9.

ALWAYS to be awake, guarded, fervent, so as to be able to act not only without sin, but in the best possible way, in the varying circumstances of each day, denotes a life of untiring mindfulness.

M. & D. 85.

February 10.

LET us submit ourselves to God's guidance and sovereign direction ; let us come to Him that He may forgive us, cleanse us, change us, guide us, and save us.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 236.

February 11.

JESUS, may I ever love Thee, not with human eyes, but with the eyes of the Spirit, which sees not as man sees.

M. & D. 314.

February 12.

It is a difficult and rare virtue to mean what we say, to love without dissimulation, to think no evil, to bear no grudge, to be free from selfishness, to be innocent and straightforward.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 338.

February 13.

No good works can be done but through the grace of God ; those works are but evidence that that grace is with the doer.

L.J., 24.

February 14.

O God, if Thou givest me health and strength and success in this world, keep me ever on my guard lest these great gifts carry me away from Thee.

M. & D., 286.

February 15.

ONE secret act of self-denial, one sacrifice of inclination to duty, is worth all the mere good thoughts, warm feelings, passionate prayers, in which idle people indulge themselves.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 188.

February 16.

LET us pray for our enemies ; let us try to make out men to be as good as they can fairly and safely be considered ; let us rejoice at any symptoms of repentance. Let us be forgiving.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 111.

February 17.

THOUGH Christ took on Himself the nature of man, He took not on Him that selfishness, with which fallen man wraps himself round, but in all things He devoted Himself as a ready sacrifice to His Father.

D.M.C. 110.

February 18.

LET us determine with cheerful hearts to sacrifice unto the Lord our God our comforts and pleasures, however innocent, when He calls for them, whether for the purpose of His Church or in His own inscrutable Providence.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 154.

February 19.

THE love which the Son bears to thee, a creature, is like that which the Father bears to the uncreated Son.

M. & D. 402.

February 20.

NEVER suffer sin to remain upon you ; let it not grow old in you ; wipe it off while it is fresh, else it will stain ; let it not get ingrained ; let it not eat its way in and rust in you.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 206.

February 21.

My God, give me courage, a true instinct determining between right and wrong, humility in all things, and a tender, longing love of Thee.

M. & D. 566.

February 22.

O DEAR Lord, teach us to suffer with Thee, and not be afraid of Satan's buffetings, when they come on us from resisting him.

M. & D. 232.

February 23.

LET us lend to God a few short hours of present ease, and we shall receive our own with abundant usury in the day of His coming.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 154.

February 24.

To possess Thee, O Lover of Souls, is happiness, and the only happiness of the immortal soul! To enjoy the sight of Thee is the only happiness of eternity.

M. & D. 442.

February 25.

LET us pray God, by the merits of His Cross and Passion, to have mercy on all we love, on all the Church, to pardon us, to reveal to us our sins, and to give us repentance and amendment of life.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 51.

February 26.

MAKE us sure, O Lord, that the greater is our distress, the nearer we are to Thee. The more men scorn us, the more Thou dost honour us.

M. & D. 245 and 246.

February 27.

CHRIST showed His love in deed, not in word, and you will be touched by the thought of His Cross far more by bearing it after Him, than glowing accounts of it.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 338.

February 28.

CHRIST has not only died for sinners, but also vouchsafes from above the influence of grace, to enable them to love what by nature they cannot love, and to do what they cannot do—to believe and obey.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 289.

February 29.

GOD gives His grace to all men, and to those who profit by it He gives more grace, and even those who quench it still have the offer.

D.M.C. 189.

March 1.

LET us beg of God the Spirit of faith and hope, that we may not repine or despond, or account Him a hard master; that we may learn lovingly to adore the Hand that afflicts us.

P.P.S., Vol IV., 115.

March 2.

THOU askest us to love Thee, O my God, and Thou art Thyself Love. There was one attribute of Thine which Thou did'st exercise from eternity, and that was Love.

M. & D. 510.

March 3.

IT would be well if we were in the habit of looking at all we have as God's gift, undeservedly given, and day by day continued to us solely by His mercy. He gave, He may take away.

P.P.S., Vol V., 83.

March 4.

As I came from Thee, as I am made through Thee, as I live in Thee, so, O my God, may I at last return to Thee, and be with Thee for ever and ever.

M. & D. 578.

March 5.

WE must not only pray with our lips, and fast, and do outward penance, and be chaste in our bodies; but we must be obedient and pure in our minds.

M. & D. 53.

March 6.

OBEDIENCE is the obvious mode, suggested by nature, of a creature's conducting himself in God's sight, who fears Him as his Maker, and knows that, as a sinner, he has especial cause for fearing Him.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 80

March 7.

To make sinful creatures holy was the great end which our Lord had in view in taking upon Him our nature, and thus none but the holy will be acceptable for His sake at the last day.

P.P.S., Vol. I, 1.

March 8.

DEAR Lord, teach us to suffer with Thee, make it pleasant to us to suffer for Thy sake, and sanctify all our sufferings by the merits of Thy own.

M. & D. 227.

March 9.

JESUS Christ, who when darkness, sin, guilt and misery had overspread the earth, came down from Heaven, took our nature on Him, and shed His precious blood upon the Cross for all men.

M. & D. 251.

March 10.

PRAYER for self is the most obvious of duties, as soon as leave is given us to pray at all, which Christ distinctly and mercifully accorded, when he came.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 350.

March 11.

GOD gives us just so much of health, of wealth, of friends, as is best for us; He afflicts us only when it is for our good.

M. & D. 285.

March 12.

LET us bless Our Saviour for His surpassing loving-kindness in taking upon Him our infirmities to redeem us, when He dwelt in the innermost love of the Everlasting Father, in the glory which He had with Him before the world was.

P.P.S., Vol II., 38.

March 13.

THERE is but one way to heaven ; the narrow way ; and he who sets about to seek God, though in old age, must enter it at the same door as others.

P.P.S., Vol I., 226.

March 14.

GOD leads us by strange ways ; we know He wills our happiness, but we neither know what our happiness is, nor the way. Left to ourselves we should take the wrong way ; we must leave it to Him.

————— M. & D. 398

March 15.

THE office of self-examination lies rather in detecting what is bad in us than in ascertaining what is good.

P.P.S., Vol II., 61.

March 16.

No true penitent forgets or forgives himself; an unforgiving spirit towards himself is the very price of God's forgiving him.

S.S.D. 28.

March 17.

WHAT mind of man can imagine the love which the Eternal Father bears towards the Only Begotten Son? It has been from everlasting,—and is infinite.

M. & D. 402.

March 18.

BLESSED indeed are they whom Christ calls near to Him to be His own peculiar attendants and familiar friends; more blessed if they obey and fulfil their calling.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 333

March 19.

ST. Joseph was our Lord's father, because to him were entrusted, and by him were faithfully fulfilled, the duties of a father, in protecting Him, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.

M. & D. 366.

March 20.

ETERNAL punishment is the only true measure of the guilt of sin.

M. & D. 460.

March 21.

O JESUS, mortify and crucify us with Thee. Let us never sin by hand or foot, by eyes or mouth, or by head or heart. Let all our senses be a sacrifice to Thee, let every member sing Thy praise.

M. & D. 239,

March 22.

RECOLLECT that it is by nature, not by grace, that man has the gifts of reason and conscience; and mere reason and conscience will lead him to discover, and in measure pursue, objects which are, properly speaking, supernatural and divine.

————— D.M.C. 155

March 23.

O GOD, if Thou bringest pain and sorrow on me, give me grace to bear it well — keep me from fretfulness and selfishness.

————— M. & D. 286

March 24.

TRIAL is our portion here—we must not think it strange when trial comes after peace. Still God mercifully does grant a respite now and then, and perhaps He grants it to us the more, the more careful we are not to abuse it.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 84

March 25.

THE glories of Mary are not only for the sake of her Son, they are for our sakes also. Let us copy her faith, who received God's message by the Angel without a doubt.

D.M.C. 378.

March 26.

CHRIST'S Atonement is His putting away the wrath of God for our sins. In order to this, He took flesh ; He accomplished it in His own Person, by His crucifixion and death.

L. J. 204.

March 27.

AT the sight of the sufferings of Jesus the Holy women are so pierced with grief that they cry out and bewail Him, careless of what happens to them by so doing.

M. & D. 201.

March 28.

WE are not simply to believe, but to watch; not simply to obey, but to watch; to watch for what? For that great event, Christ's coming.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 322.

March 29.

CONSIDER the deep and serene compassion which led Christ to pray for those who crucified Him, His solicitous care of His Mother, and His pardoning words addressed to the robber who suffered with Him on the cross.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 149.

March 30.

JESUS is condemned to death. His death-warrant is signed, and who signed it but I, when I committed my first mortal sin.

M. & D. 187 and 188.

March 31.

JESUS supports the whole world by His Divine power, for He is God ; but the weight was less heavy than was the cross which our sins hewed out for Him. Our sins cost Him His humiliation.

—————
M. & D. 223.

April 1.

THERE is enough for us to do, far more than we fulfil, in our own ordinary course. Let us strive to be more humble, faithful, merciful, meek, self-denying than we are.

—————
P.P.S., Vol. II., 49.

April 2.

HE who best knows by infirmity to take the part of the infirm, He who would fain reap the full fruit of His Passion, He will separate the wheat from the chaff, so that not a grain shall fall to the ground. May He in His grace and loving pity remember us, Who is our only hope, our only salvation.

—————
P.P.S., Vol. II., 40.

April 3.

LET the Sacred Blood, which flowed from Thy five wounds, anoint us with such sanctifying grace that we may die to this world ; and live only to Thee.

M. & D. 240.

April 4.

GOD alone can claim the attribute of holiness. By holiness we mean the absence of whatever sullies, dims, and degrades a rational nature ; all that is most opposite and contrary to sin and guilt.

M. & D. 37.

April 5.

IT is the Christian's unspeakable privilege, and his alone, that he has at all times free access to the throne of grace through the mediation of his Lord and Saviour.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 245.

April 6.

O MY Lord Jesus, whose love for me has been so great as to bring Thee down from heaven to save me, teach me truly to repent of my sins, and pardon them in Thy great mercy!

M. & D. 457.

April 7.

LET us beg God to enlighten us, and comfort us; to forgive us all our sins; teaching us those we do not see, and enabling us to overcome them.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 96.

April 8.

WHAT is meant by loving all men, is, to feel well-disposed to all men, to be ready to assist them, and to act towards those who come in our way, as if we loved them.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 54.

April 9.

UNLESS you have some work in hand, unless you are fighting with yourselves, you are no followers of those who "through many tribulations entered into the kingdom of God." A fight is the very token of a Christian.

D.M.C. 120.

April 10.

IT has been held from the first, and defined from an early age, that Mary is the Mother of God. She is not merely the Mother of our Lord's manhood, or of our Lord's body, but she is to be considered the Mother of the Word Himself, the Word incarnate.

D.M.C. 362.

April 11.

O MIGHTY God, strengthen me with Thy strength, console me with Thy everlasting peace, soothe me with the beauty of Thy countenance.

M. & D. 564.

April 12.

LET not this sacred season of Lent leave us as it found us; let it leave us, not as children, but as heirs and as citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

— S S.D. 169.

April 13.

WE all know well, and firmly hold, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the Cross in satisfaction for our sins. This truth is the great foundation of all our hopes, and the object of our most earnest faith and most loving worship.

— D.M.C. 306.

April 14.

CHRIST is to us now, just what He was in all His glorious Attributes on the morning of the Resurrection; and we are blessed in knowing it, according to His assurance: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

P.P.S., Vol. II., 139.

April 15.

THERE are no short ways to perfection, but there are sure ones.

M. & D. 381.

April 16.

IT costs nothing to be dispassionate when you feel nothing, to be cheerful when you have nothing to fear, to be generous or liberal when what you give is not your own, and to be benevolent and considerate when you have no principles and no opinions.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 71.

April 17.

IT is so difficult for us to drive away the evil spirit from our hearts. God alone cans't effectually cast him out.

M. & D. 202.

April 18.

MARY came into a fallen world, and resigned herself to its laws ; she, as also the Son she bore, was exposed to pain of soul and body, she was subjected to death ; but she was not put under the power of sin.

D.M.C. 355.

April 19.

GRACE is given for the merits of Christ all over the earth ; there is no corner, even of Paganism, where it is not present, present in each heart of man in real sufficiency for his ultimate salvation.

D. of A., Vol. I., 83.

April 20.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well.

M. & D. 381.

April 21.

IN heaven, sin will be utterly destroyed in every elect soul. We shall have no earthly wishes, no tendencies to disobedience or irreligion, no love of the world or the flesh, to draw us off from supreme devotion to God.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 189.

April 22.

THE Father loved from eternity His only begotten Son, and the Son returned to Him an equal love. And the Holy Ghost is that love in substance, where-with the Father and the Son love one another.

— M. & D. 510.

April 23.

LET us be wise enough to have our agony in this world, not in the next. If we humble ourselves now God will pardon us then.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 21.

April 24.

THERE is no limit to be put to the bounty and power of God's grace ; and that we feel sorrow for our sins, and supplicate His mercy, is a sort of present pledge to us in our hearts, that He will grant us the good gifts we are seeking.

D.M.C. 56.

April 25.

CHRIST has broken the power of the Devil. He leads us forth on our way, and makes a path through all difficulties that we may go forward towards heaven.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 120.

April 26.

ALL that God has made speaks of its Maker ; the mountains speak of His eternity, the sun of His immensity, and the wind of His Almightyness.

M. & D. 30.

April 27.

LET us be content with what supports life, while that is given us, though we dwell in a humble place, and have not the riches of the world.

S.S.D. 153.

April 28.

HEAVEN at present is out of sight, but in due time, as snow melts and discovers what it lay upon, so will this visible creation fade away before those greater splendours which are behind it, and on which at present it depends.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 223.

April 29.

As the sun in heaven shines through the clouds, and is reflected in the landscape, so the eternal Sun of Justice, when He rose upon the earth, turned night into day, and His brightness made all things bright.

D.M.C. 43.

April 30.

THE grace of our Lord and Saviour is pledged to every one of us without measure, to give us all necessary strength and holiness when we pray for it.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 57.

May 1.

MARY became the Rosa Mystica, the choice, delicate, perfect flower of God's spiritual creation by being born, nurtured and sheltered in the mystical garden or Paradise of God.

M. & D., 29.

May 2.

MARY, as the mother of our Lord, comes nearer to Him than any Angel; nearer even than the Seraphim who surround Him, and cry continually, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

M. & D. 41.

May 3.

WHEN God would prepare a human mother for His Son, this was why He began by giving her an immaculate conception.

M. & D. 39 and 40.

May 4.

MARY went through the fire of her suffering like gold in the furnace, and when she ascended on high she was, in the words of our hymn,

“Above all the Angels in Glory untold,
Standing next to the King in a vesture of gold.”

M. & D. 23.

May 5.

O MARY, teach us ever to worship thy Son as the One Creator, and to be devout to Thee as the most highly favoured of creatures.

M. & D. 110

May 6.

THE holiness of Mary was such, that if we saw her and heard her, we should not be able to tell those who asked us anything about her except simply that she was angelic and heavenly.

M. & D. 26 and 27.

May 7.

SWEET Mother, let us ever think of thee when we think of Jesus, and when we pray to Him, ever aid us by thy powerful intercession.

M. & D. 226.

May 8.

THOU, Mary, art the Virgin of Virgins. To have a virgin soul, is to love nothing on earth in comparison of God, or except for His sake.

M. & D. 311.

May 9.

HOLY the womb that bare Him,
Holy the breasts that fed,
But holier still the royal heart
That in His passion bled.

M. & D. 354.

May 10.

WHEN our Lady is called the "Mirror of Justice," it is meant to say that she is the Mirror of sanctity, holiness, supernatural goodness.

M. & D. 45.

May 11.

JESUS is the light of the world, illuminating every man who cometh into it, opening our eyes with the gift of faith, making souls luminous by His Almighty grace—Mary is the star, shining with the light of Jesus.

M. & D. 362.

May 12.

GLADNESS and joyousness of external nature is a fit attendant on our devotion to her who is the Mystical Rose and the House of Gold.

M. & D. 1.

May 13.

To change our hearts is to learn to love things which we do not naturally love—to unlearn the love of this world ; but this involves, of course, a thwarting of our natural wishes and tastes.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 86.

May 14.

MARY is called the Gate of Heaven, because it was through her that our Lord passed from heaven to earth.

M. & D. 51.

May 15.

To Mary belongs, as being a creature, a natural claim on our sympathy and familiarity, in that she is nothing else than our fellow. She is our pride—in the poet's words, "Our tainted nature's solitary boast."

D. of A., Vol. 2, 85.

May 16.

THE higher our gifts, the heavier our duties. It was no light lot to be so intimately near to the Redeemer of men, as Mary experienced when she suffered with Him.

M. & D. 53.

May 17.

NOTHING is too high for her to whom God owes His human life; no exuberance of grace, no excess of glory but is becoming, but is to be expected there, where God has lodged Himself, whence God has issued.

D.M.C. 364.

May 18.

MARY was from the first clothed in sanctity, sealed for perseverance, luminous and glorious in God's sight, and incessantly employed in meritorious acts, which continued till her last breath.

D.M.C. 355.

May 19.

IF we, through God's unspeakable gift, have in any measure followed Mary's innocence in our youth, so far let us bless Him who enabled us.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 137.

May 20.

MARY is a specimen, and more than a specimen, in the purity of her soul and body, of what man was before his fall, and what he would have been, had he risen to his full perfection.

D.M.C. 353.

May 21.

MARY is called by the holy Fathers a second and a better Eve, as having taken that first step in the salvation of mankind which Eve took in its ruin.

M. & D. 52.

May 22.

WHAT shall give you patience and endurance when you are wearied out with the length of the conflict with evil, but a loving communion with Mary.

D.M.C. 379.

May 23.

IT became Mary, as a creature, a mother, and a woman, to stand aside and make way for the Creator, to minister to her Son, and to win her way into the world's homage by sweet and gracious persuasion.

D.M.C. 358.

May 24.

Go to Mary for the royal heart of innocence. She is the beautiful gift of God, which outshines the fascinations of a bad world, and which no one ever sought in sincerity and was disappointed.

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D.M.C. 380.

May 25.

LET us receive the truth in reverence, and pray God to give us a good will, and divine light, and spiritual strength, that it may bear fruit within us.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 45.

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May 26.

GAIN for me, O Philip, a pure love, a strong love, and an efficacious love, that, loving God here upon earth, I may enjoy the sight of Him, together with thee and all Saints, hereafter in heaven.

M. & D. 139.

May 27.

LET us be meek and gentle, let us think before we speak; let us do good, not hoping for a return, and avoiding all display before men.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 60.

May 28.

WE must live in sunshine, even when in sorrow; we must live in God's presence, we must not shut ourselves up in our own hearts, even when we are reckoning up our past sins.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 271.

May 29.

POVERTY is the mother of many pains and sorrows in their season, and these are God's messengers to lead the soul to repentance.

D.M.C. 117.

May 30.

IF God gives us grace to repent, it is well; if He enables us to chasten heart and body, to Him be praise; and for that very reason, while we do so, we must not cease rejoicing in Him.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 271.

May 31.

KNOWLEDGE is the possession of those living ideas of sacred things, from which alone change of heart or conduct can proceed.

O.U.S. 332,

June 1.

O MOST Sacred, most loving Heart of Jesus, Thou art concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and Thou beatest for us still.

M. & D. 573.

June 2.

MY God, my Saviour, I adore Thy Sacred Heart, for that heart is the seat and source of Thy tenderest human affections for us sinners. It is the instrument and organ of Thy love.

M. & D. 572.

June 3.

THE Divine Baptism, wherewith God visits us, penetrates through our whole soul and body. It leaves no part of us uncleansed, un sanctified.

S.S.D. 148.

June 4.

LET us offer up our best gifts in sacrifice to Him, who, instead of abhorring, has taken up His abode in these sinful hearts of ours.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 269.

June 5.

THE Holy Ghost came "to glorify Christ," to declare openly to all the world that He had come on earth, suffered, and died, who was also the Creator and Governor of the world, the Saviour, the final Judge of men.

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O.U.S. 35.

June 6.

THE true Christian rejoices in those earthly things which give joy, but in such a way as not to care for them when they go

P.P.S., Vol. I., 333.

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June 7.

MERCY towards the poor, devotion to the Holy Virgin, are very sensible tokens of predestination ; nevertheless, they are not absolutely infallible ; but one cannot have a sincere and constant love of Jesus Christ without being predestinated.

D. of A., Vol. II., 94.

June 8.

HE who has begun a good work in you, will perfect it; He who has chosen you, will be faithful to you; put your cause into His hand, wait upon Him, and you will surely persevere.

D.M.C. 233.

June 9.

FAITH and humility are the only spells which conjure up the image of heavenly things under the letter of inspiration; and faith and humility consists, not in going about to prove, but in the outset confiding on the testimony of others.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 340.

June 10.

LET us beg of God to stand by us in trouble, and guide us on our dangerous way.

S.S.D. 347.

June 11.

GOD may be pleased to grant the desires of your heart ; if so, thank Him for His mercy ; only be sure that all will be for your highest good, and "as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

P.P.S., Vol. I., 349.

June 12.

OUR Lord died for those heathens who did not know Him ; and His Mother intercedes for those Christians who do not know her ; and she intercedes according to His will, and, when He wills to save a particular soul she at once prays for it.

D. of A., Vol. II., 105.

June 13.

FAITH is a divine light ; by it we are brought out of darkness into sunshine ; by it, instead of groping, we are able to see our way towards heaven.

M. & D. 261.

June 14.

THE Church aims, not at making a show, but at doing a work. She regards this world, and all that is in it, as a mere shadow, as dust and ashes, compared with the value of one single soul.

D. of A., Vol. I., 239.

June 15.

WHEN the Eternal Word decreed to come on earth, He did not purpose, He did not work, by halves; but He came to be a man like any of us, to take a human soul and body, and to make them His own.

D.M.C. 345.

June 16.

Do not be satisfied with the state in which you find yourselves; do not be satisfied with nature; be satisfied only with grace.

S.S.D. 125.

June 17.

HE who does not use a gift, loses it; the man who does not use his voice or limbs, loses the power over them, and becomes disqualified for the state of life to which he is called.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 228.

June 18.

WHAT good work will you ever begin, if you bargain first to see the end of it? If you wish to do all at once you will do nothing; he has done half the work who has begun it well; you will not gain your Lord's praise at the final reckoning by hiding His talent.

D.M.C. 233.

June 19.

WHILE Satan only threatens, let us possess our hearts in patience; try to keep quiet; aim at obeying God in all things, little as well as great; to do the duties of our calling which lie before us, day by day.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 150.

June 20.

It is a great thing to keep in God's favour; what indeed can we desire more?

D.M.C. 119.

June 21.

“CHARITY,” or love, “never faileth.” Faith and hope are graces of an imperfect state, and they cease with that state; but love is greater, because it is perfection.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 309.

June 22.

HE that fails nine times and succeeds the tenth is a more honourable man than he who hides his talents in a napkin.

O U.S. 220.

June 23.

To be alive, is not merely to bear the thought of religion, to assent to the truth of religion, to wish to be religious ; but to be drawn towards it, to love it, to delight in it, to obey it.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 180.

June 24.

LET us take things as we find them ; let us not attempt to distort them into what they are not.

O.U.S. 231.

June 25.

FAITH, is assenting to a doctrine as true, which we do not see, which we cannot prove, because God says it is true, Who cannot lie. God says it is true, not by His own voice, but by the voice of His messengers.

D.M.C. 195,

June 26.

To be dead with Christ, is to hate and turn from sin ; and to live with Him is to have our hearts and minds turned towards God and Heaven.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 179.

June 27.

BAPTISM is a means and pledge of God's mercy, pardon, acceptance of us for Christ's sake ; it gives us grace to change our natures.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 222.

June 28.

THERE is but one real antagonist of the world, and that is the faith of Catholics ; Christ set that faith up, and it will do its work on earth, as it ever has done, till He comes again.

D.M.C. 103.

June 29.

WHILE Christianity reveals pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life through the mediation of Christ, it also professes to point out means for the present improvement of our moral nature itself.

O.U.S. 37.

June 30.

LET us beg God to give us an understanding heart, and that love of Him which is the instinct of the new creature, and the breath of spiritual life.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 371.

July 1.

MAY our Saviour wash us clean in His Precious Blood, and give us the fullness of faith, love, and hope, as foretastes of the heavenly portion which He destines for us.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 225.

July 2.

IF we were created, it is that we might serve God ; if we have His gifts, it is that we may glorify Him ; if we have a conscience, it is that we may obey it.

————— D.M.C. 121.

July 3.

LET us come to God with pure and sincere minds ; imploring Him to reveal to us what we know not, and to make us love and obey Him honestly.

————— S.S.D. 88.

July 4.

LET us do our duty as it presents itself ; this is the secret of true faith and peace. We have power over our deeds, under God's grace ; we have no direct power over our habits. Let us but secure our actions, as God would have them, and our habits will follow.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 160.

July 5.

CLEANNESSE of heart and spirit, obedience by word and deed, this alone in us can be acceptable to God; that is, this alone can constitute our justification. We cannot acquire it for ourselves; but, if it is to be ours it must come from God only.

L.J. 32.

July 6.

WE cannot estimate the real value of anything which we or others do, or how it stands in making up their or our account in God's sight.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 262.

July 7.

HE who aims at praying well, loving sincerely, disputing meekly, as the respective duties occur, is wise and religious.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 160.

July 8.

ONCE believe that God has spoken, and you are sure He cannot unsay what He has already said ; He cannot deceive ; He cannot change ; you have received it once for all ; you will believe it ever.

D.M.C. 203.

July 9.

HE who lives in all creatures on earth in order to their mortal life, lives in Christians in a more divine way in order to their life immortal.

L.J. 144.

July 10.

PRAY God to give you "an honest and good heart," or "a perfect heart," and, without waiting, begin at once to obey Him with the best heart you have.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 32.

July 11.

CONSCIENCE is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself, but is a messenger from Him, who, both in nature and grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by His representatives.

D. of A., Vol. II., 248.

July 12.

THE truest obedience is indisputably that which is done from love of God without narrowly measuring the magnitude or nature of the sacrifice involved in it.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 171.

July 13.

THE fear of God is the beginning of wisdom ; till you see Him to be a consuming fire, and approach Him with reverence and godly fear, as being sinners, you are not even in sight of the straight gate.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 322.

July 14.

THERE is no truth which Holy Church is more earnest in impressing upon us than that our salvation from first to last is the gift of God.

D.M.C. 125.

July 15.

WE are endowed by nature and through grace with a portion of certain excellences which belong in perfection to the Most High—as benevolence, wisdom, justice, truth and holiness.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 354.

July 16.

GOD sees our thoughts without our help, and praises them; but we cannot be praised by men without being seen by men.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 52.

July 17.

LET us beg of God to employ us ; let us try to obtain a spirit of perfect self-surrender to Him, and an indifference to one thing above another in this world, so that we may be ready to follow His call whenever it comes to us.

-- — S.S.D. 58.

July 18.

ST. JOHN is the Saint of purity, and St. Peter is the Saint of love. Not that love and purity can ever be separated ; not as if a Saint had not all virtues in him at once ; not as if St. Peter were not pure as well as loving, and St. John loving, for all he was so pure.

— D.M.C., 62.

July 19.

LET all those who acknowledge the voice of God speaking within them, and urging them heavenwards, wait patiently for the end, exercising themselves, and diligently working, with a view to that day when the books shall be opened.

O.U.S. 98.

July 20.

FAITH and obedience are the main things ; believe and do, and pray to God for light, and you will reason well without knowing it.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 341.

July 21.

THERE is a bravery in going straightforward, shrinking from no duty, little or great, passing from high to low, from pleasure to pain, and making your principles strong without their becoming formal.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 334.

July 22.

GOD is our sole strength, our sole refuge ; that if good is in any way in store for us, it lies with God ; if it is attainable, it is attained by coming to God.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 117.

July 23.

LET us pray God to give us humility, that we may seek aright; honesty, that we may have no concealed aims; love, that we may desire the truth; and faith, that we may accept it.

— S.S.D. 106.

July 24.

GOD does nothing without some wise and good reason, which it becomes us devoutly to accept and use.

— P.P.S., Vol. I., 328.

July 25.

LET us pray God to give us the spirit of obedience, of true dutifulness; an honest spirit, earnestly set to do His will, with no secret ends, no selfish designs of our own, no preferences of the creature to the Creator, but open, clear, conscientious and loyal.

— P.P.S., Vol. VI., 371.

July 26.

To comfort the poor and afflicted is the way to heaven, so to have affliction ourselves is the way to comfort them.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 311.

July 27.

MEN do not begin by intending to dishonour God ; but they are afraid of the ridicule of others ; they are ashamed of appearing religious ; and thus are led to pretend that they are worse than they really are.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 305.

July 28.

FAITH is the first step towards salvation, and without it we have no hope.

M. & D. 261.

July 29.

IT is not enough to bid you to serve Christ in faith, fear, love and gratitude ; care must be taken that it is the faith, fear, love and gratitude of a sound mind.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 179.

July 30.

MAY we ever bear in mind that we are not sent into the world to stand all the day idle ; but to go forth to our work and to our labours until the evening.

S.S.D. 12.

July 31.

LET a man once set his heart upon learning to pray, and strive to learn, and no failures he may continue to make in his manner of praying are sufficient to cast him from God's favour.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 144.

August 1.

IF you would do works meet for penance, they must proceed from a living flame of charity. If you would secure perseverance to the end, you must gain it by continual loving prayer to the Author and Finisher of faith and obedience.

————— D.M.C. 80.

August 2.

THOUGH the aids which God gives us are sufficient to enable us to live without sin, yet our infirmity of will and of attention is a match for them, and we do not do in fact that which we might do.

————— D.M.C. 130.

August 3.

OUR feelings are not in our own power; God alone can rule our feelings, God alone can make us sorrow, when we would, but cannot, sorrow.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 143.

August 4.

LET all who would labour for God in a dark time beware of anything which ruffles, excites, and in any way withdraws them from the love of God and Christ, and simple obedience to Him.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 325.

August 5.

GIVE freely of your time to your Lord and Saviour, if you have it. If you have little, show your good sense of the privilege by giving that little.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 220.

August 6.

NOTHING that we are can assure us that we shall answer to what God expects of us, for we do not know what that is; what we are can but cheer us and give us hopes and good spirits.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 263.

August 7.

THE impure do not love God ; and those who are without love of God cannot really be pure. Purity prepares the the soul for love, and love confirms the soul in purity.

D.M.C. 63.

August 8.

WHETHER God punishes us or not, or how far pardons, or how far restores, or what gifts He bestows, rests with Him ; and it is our part to take good or bad, as He gives it.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 117.

August 9.

GOD has an end for each of us ; we are all equal in His sight, and we are placed in our different ranks and stations not to get what we can out of them for ourselves, but to labour in them for Him.

D.M.C. 111.

August 10.

BLESSED are they who give the flower of their days, and their strength of soul to God.

P.P.S., Vol. VIII., 243.

August 11.

IF a person does not confess with a desire of amendment, it is not a real confession ; but he who comes to God to tell before Him sorrowfully all that he knows wrong in himself, is thereby desiring and beginning what is right and holy.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 249.

August 12.

THE consistency of virtue is another gift, which gradually checks the rudeness of the world, and tames it into obedience of itself.

O.U.S. 93.

August 13.

IF you have in past years neglected God, perchance you will have to suffer for it; but fear not; He will give you grace and strength to bear such punishment as He may be pleased to inflict.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 199.

August 14.

PRAY God to teach you His will, and to lead you forth in the right way, because of your enemies. Submit yourselves to His guidance, and you will have comfort given you, according to your day, and peace at the last.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 203.

August 15.

BY the Assumption of Our Lady is meant that not only her soul, but her body also, was taken up to heaven upon her death, so that there was no long period of her sleeping in the grave.

M. & D. 93.

August 16.

THE Eternal God deals with us one by one, each in his own way; and bystanders may pity and compassionate the long throes of our travail, but, they cannot aid us except by their prayers.

D. of A., Vol. I., 399.

August 17.

HE that has begun a good work in us, will perform it in some way or other and bring it to perfection.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 168.

August 18.

ALMIGHTY God has given His word that, if we take Him for our portion, and put ourselves into His hands, He will guide us through all trials and temptations, and bring us safe to heaven.

M. & D. 109.

August 19.

WE must not give up this visible world, as if it came of the evil one. It is our duty to change it into the kingdom of heaven. We must manifest the kingdom of heaven upon earth.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 304.

August 20.

WE know not, we cannot know, whom God has chosen for salvation, and while we understand this, and keep it before us, we shall not be puffed up about ourselves, nor harsh and censorious towards others, though we bear in mind ever so much that the gate of heaven is narrow, and few there be that find it.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 260.

August 21.

EVERY man born of Adam's seed, simply and truly, might save himself, if he would, and every man might will to save himself; for grace is given to every one for this.

D.M.C. 125.

August 22.

WHEN we feel that God's mysteries are too severe for us, and occasion us to doubt, let us earnestly wait on Him for the gift of humility and love.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 151.

August 23.

BY nature we are like wild trees, bearing sour and bitter fruit, and so we should remain, were we not grafted upon Christ, the good olive tree, made members of Christ, the righteous and holy and well-beloved Son of God.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 187.

August 24.

GOD can make bitter things sweet to you and hard ways easy; if you have but the heart to desire Him to do so.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 131.

August 25.

LET us exercise ourselves in those good works, which both reverse the evil that is past and lay up a good foundation for us in the world to come.

S.S.D. 58.

August 26.

FAITH is a great gift, which comes from above, and which we cannot obtain except from Him who is the object of it. He, our Lord Jesus Himself, and he alone, gives us the grace to believe in Him.

M. & D. 261.

August 27.

A RIGHT faith is ever eager and on the watch, with quick eyes and ears, for tokens of God's will, whether He speaks in the way of nature or of grace.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 109.

August 28.

SELF-CONFIDENT men, who do not know their own hearts, or the reasons they have for being dissatisfied with themselves, do not fear God, and they think this bold freedom is to love Him.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 303.

August 29.

LET us wait upon God day by day for the treasures of grace, which are hid in Christ, which are great beyond words or thought.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 151.

August 30.

HE alone, the Son of God, "the brightness of the Eternal Light, and the spotless mirror of His Majesty," is the source of all good and all happiness to rich and poor, high and low. If you were ever so high you would need Him; if you were ever so low you could offend Him.

D.M.C. 116.

August 31.

KEEPING from God is not to escape from His power, only from His love. Surrender yourselves to Him in faith and holy fear.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 199.

September 1.

GOD sees every one of us ; He creates every soul, He lodges it in the body, one by one, for a purpose. He needs, He deigns to need, every one of us.

D.M.C. 111.

September 2.

LET us pray God to give us all graces, and while we pray that He would make us holy, really holy, let us also pray Him to give us the beauty of holiness.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 134.

September 3.

THE great recovery or justification of the sinner in God's sight is not the silent bestowal of a gift, but an open display of His power and love.

L.J. 76.

September 4.

PRAYER is to the spiritual life what the beating of the pulse and the drawing of the breath are to the life of the body.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 209.

September 5.

MAN did not become guilty except by becoming sinful; he does not become innocent except by becoming holy.

L.J. 32.

September 6.

LET us pray God to teach us what we are so deficient in, and save us from using words and cherishing thoughts which our actions put to shame.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 184.

September 7.

GOD is everywhere as absolutely and entirely as if He were nowhere else, and it seems essential to the existence of every creature, that in some sense or other He should be present with it and be its life.

L.J. 144.

September 8.

FEAR and love must go together ; always fear, always love, to your dying day.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 322.

September 9.

UNLESS we have a true love of Christ, we are not His true disciples ; and we cannot love Him unless we have heartfelt gratitude to Him, and we cannot duly feel gratitude, unless we feel keenly what He suffered for us.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 133.

September 10.

LET us understand that nothing but the love of God can make us believe in Him or obey Him.

P.P.S., Vol. VIII., 89.

September 11.

WHOEVER we are, in whatever part of the earth, Jesus must live in our hearts. We may differ from each other in many things, but in this we must all agree, if we are to be His true children.

M. & D. 229.

September 12.

THE Church has the office of teaching, and the matter of that teaching is the body of doctrine which the Apostles left behind them as her perpetual possession.

D. of A., Vol. II., 324.

September 13.

To be easy in believing is nothing more or less than to have been ready to enquire; to be hard of belief is nothing else but to have been loth and reluctant to enquire.

S.V.O. 70.

September 14.

FAITH alone lengthens a man's existence, and makes him, in his own feelings, live in the future and in the past.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 274.

September 15.

It is possible to be innocent, and to have that sense of our innocence which makes us happy in the thought of God's eye being upon us.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 239.

September 16.

COME to God, and beg of Him grace to devote yourselves to Him. Beg of Him the will to follow Him; beg of Him the power to obey Him.

P.P.S., Vol VII., 191.

September 17.

THERE is doubtless no measure between human nature and God's rewards; He allows us to merit what we cannot claim except from His allowance. He promises us heaven for our good deeds here, and under the covenant of that promise we are justly said to merit it, though heaven is an infinite good and we are but finite creatures.

D.M.C. 373.

September 18.

CHRISTIAN faith is faith developed into love, it lives in love, and love is greater than faith, because it is its Gospel perfection.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 185.

September 19.

A MAN serves with a perfect heart, who serves God in all parts of his duty ; and, not here and there, but here and there and everywhere, not perfectly indeed as regards the quality of his obedience, but perfect as regards its extent, not completely, but consistently.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 239.

September 20.

GOD has created all things for good ; all things for their greatest good ; everything for its own good.

M. & D. 397.

September 21.

IF one drop of corruption makes the purest water worthless, as the slightest savour of bitterness spoils the most delicate viands, how can it be that the word of truth and holiness can proceed profitably from impure lips and an earthly heart?

D.M.C. 369.

September 22.

THEY who persevere to the end, will be perfect in soul and body, when they stand before God in heaven.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 158.

September 23.

To be loyal is not only to obey, but to obey with promptitude, energy, dutifulness, disinterested devotion, disregard of consequences.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 381.

September 24.

IT is the boast of the Catholic Religion, that it has the gift of making the young heart chaste; and why is this, but that it gives us Jesus Christ for our food, and Mary for our nursing Mother?

D.M.C. 380.

September 25.

IN order to be perfect do not lie in bed beyond the due time of rising; give your first thoughts to God, make a good visit to the Blessed Sacrament, eat and drink to God's glory and examine yourself daily.

M & D. 382 and 383.

September 26.

IF we are true to ourselves, nothing can really thwart us. Our welfare is not with carnal weapons, but with heavenly.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 325.

September 27.

LET us think much, and make much, of the grace of God, let us beware of receiving it in vain ; let us pray God to prosper it in our hearts, that we may bring forth much fruit.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 177.

September 28.

THE pleasures of holiness are far more pleasant to the holy, than the pleasures of sin to the sinner.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 197.

September 29.

GOD has brought life into the world ; He has given life to religion ; He has made everything spiritual and true by His touch, full of virtue, full of grace, full of power.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 175.

September 30.

GOD has graciously willed to bring us to heaven ; to practice a heavenly life on earth, certainly is a thing above earth.

S.S.D. 99.

October 1.

IF we do not love God, it is because we have not wished to love Him, tried to love Him, prayed to love Him.

P.P.S., Vol. VIII., 88.

October 2.

LET us put off all excuses, all unfairness and insincerity, all trifling with our conscience, all self-deception, all delay of repentance. Let us be filled with one wish—to please God.

S.S.D. 107.

October 3.

No one sins without making some excuse to himself for sinning. He is obliged to do so; man is not like the brute beasts, he has a divine gift within him which we call reason, and which constrains him to account before its judgment-seat for what he does.

D.M.C. 22.

October 4.

LET your light shine before men, and praise God by a consistent life.

P.P.S., Vol. VIII., 138.

October 5.

WE cannot understand Christ's mercies till we understand His power, His glory, His unspeakable holiness, and our demerits; that is, until we first fear Him.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 304.

October 6.

TRUE penitence is that which never comes to an end ; true penance is that which lasts as long as penitence.

S.S.D. 52.

October 7.

IN heaven, love will absorb fear ; but in this world, fear and love must go together. No one can love God aright without fearing Him ; though many fear Him, and yet do not love Him.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 303.

October 8.

IN that same incomprehensible, eternal instant, in which the Son of God was born of the Father, was also the decree passed of man's redemption through Him.

M. & D. 11.

October 9.

IT is our blessedness to be made like the all-holy, all-gracious, long-suffering and merciful God, who made and who redeemed us; in whose presence is perfect rest, and perfect peace.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 326.

October 10.

“BLESSED are they that do God’s commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city.”

S.S.D. 14.

October 11.

THAT sin which belongs to everyone of us, and is ours from the first moment of our existence, is the sin of unbelief and disobedience, by which Adam lost Paradise.

M. & D. 11.

October 12.

HE who does not pray, does not claim his citizenship with heaven, but lives, though an heir of the kingdom, as if he were a child of earth.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 228.

October 13.

LESSER or venial sins do not separate the soul from God, or forfeit its perseverance in grace ; and they are permitted by the Giver of all grace for a good purpose, to humble us, and to give us an incentive to works of penance.

D.M.C. 128.

October 14.

HE who obeys God conscientiously and lives holily, forces all about him to believe and tremble before the unseen power of Christ.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 292.

October 15.

LET us examine ourselves, to see if there be any wicked way in us ; let us aim at obtaining some comfortable assurance that we are in the narrow way that leads to life.

—————
P.P.S., Vol. I., 138.

October 16.

THOUGH your conscience witnesses against you, God can disburden it ; whether you have sinned less or whether you have sinned more, He can make you as clean in His sight and as acceptable to Him as if you had never gone from Him.

—————
D.M.C. 56.

October 17.

MAY God's mercy keep us from the shadow of a thought, dimming the purity or blunting the keenness of that love of Him, which is our sole happiness and our sole salvation.

D. of A., Vol. II., 83.

October 18.

LET us aim at the consistent habit of mind, of looking towards God, and rejoicing in the glory which shall be revealed.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 38.

October 19.

LET us try to serve God more strictly than heretofore ; let us pray Him to send down that influence which converted the world in the beginning, and He surely will answer our prayers far beyond what we think or hope.

S.S.D. 151.

October 20.

SIN is something odious in its very nature, and grace is something bright, beautiful, attractive.

M. & D. 24.

October 21.

It is superstitious to ascribe power to the creature where God has not given it ; and profane to deny it where He has.

L.J. 318.

October 22.

To go to heaven is to go to God. God is there and God alone : for perfect bliss and nothing else, and none can be blessed who is not bathed and hidden and absorbed in the glory of the Divine Nature.

M. & D. 536.

October 23.

Not Priest only, but every one who is in the grace of God, leads a supernatural life, more or less supernatural, according to his calling and the measure of the gifts given him, and his faithfulness to them.

D.M.C. 59.

October 24.

IF by God's grace we shall be able in a measure to sanctify ourselves in spite of our former sins, yet how much more should we have attained had we always been engaged in His service.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 111.

October 25.

LET us aim at meaning what we say, and saying what we mean, let us aim at knowing when we understand a truth, and when we do not.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 45.

October 26.

A slight penance, if long, is far more trying than a severe one, if short.

S.S.D. 51.

October 27.

HOWEVER faithfully we have obeyed God, and however early we began to do so, surely we might have begun sooner than we did, and might have served Him more heartily.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 108.

October 28.

LET us never lose sight of two truths: that we ought to have our hearts penetrated with the love of Christ and full of self-renunciation.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 39.

October 29.

WHATEVER be the heights of holiness to which repentant sinners attain, yet they cannot have this pearl of great price, not to have sinned.

S.S.D. 28.

October 30.

WE must know what the evil of sin is hereafter, if we do not learn it here. God give us all grace to choose the pain of present repentance before the wrath to come.

— P.P.S., Vol. I., 56.

October 31.

“WITHOUT faith it is impossible to please God”; “by faith we stand”; “by faith we walk”; “by faith we overcome the world.”—Faith is the gift of God and not a mere act of our own, which we are free to exert when we will.

D.M.C. 210 & 225.

November 1.

BRING us after all the troubles of this life into the haven of peace, and reunite us all together for ever, O Lord, in Thy glorious heavenly kingdom.

M. & D. 293.

November 2.

O my Lord and Saviour, support me in the hour of death in the strong arms of Thy Sacraments, and by the fresh fragrance of Thy consolations.

D.M.C. 123.

November 3.

BAD men who are now in hell, and the elect of God who are in purgatory, are suffering only in their souls, for their bodies are still in the dust; yet how severe is that suffering.

M. & D. 70.

November 4.

LET us labour to approve ourselves to Christ, let the tumult of error teach us the simplicity of truth; the miseries of guilt, the peace of innocence.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 115.

November 5.

To be true and sincere is really to see with our minds those great wonders which God has wrought in order that we might see them.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 29.

November 6.

ALL holy creatures are but the vestment of the Highest, which He has put on for ever, and which is bright with His uncreated light.

M. & D. 536.

November 7.

As Christ has His work, we too have ours ; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also.

D.M.C. 111.

November 8.

THERE never was a moment, there never was an act or providence, in which God wrought, without His being just and loving, even though both attributes may not be exercised at once in the same act.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 65.

November 9.

IF we live well, and die in the grace of God, we shall all of us hereafter be taken up by our Incarnate God to that place where angels dwell.

M. & D. 57.

November 10.

CONSCIENCE at first warns us against sin ; but if we disregard it, it soon ceases to upbraid us ; and thus sins, once known, in time become secret sins.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 51.

November 11.

FAITH and hope are means by which we express our love; we believe God's word, because we love it; we hope after heaven, because we love it.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 309.

November 12.

It will be too late to pray, when life is over. There is no prayer in the grave, there is no meriting in purgatory.

M. & D. 544.

November 13.

ONE grace and then another is to be perfected in us. Each day is to bring forth its own treasure, till we stand, like blessed spirits, able and waiting to do the will of God.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 352.

November 14.

As we desire to enter into life, let us come to Christ continually for the two foundations of true Christian faith—humbleness of mind and earnestness!

P.P.S., Vol. I., 40.

November 15.

THE thought of our Saviour, absent yet present, is like that of a friend taken from us, but, as it were, in dream returned to us, though in this case not in dream, but in reality and truth.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 25.

November 16.

GOD'S grace unfetters the will which by nature is in bondage, and thus restores to us the faculty of accepting or rejecting that grace itself.

L.J. 94.

November 17.

THE Saints remind us of God, they introduce us into the unseen world, they teach us what Christ loves, they track out for us the way which leads heavenward.

D.M.C. 102.

November 18.

CHRIST gives the Kingdom to those for whom it is prepared of the Father, the Father prepares it for those who love and serve Him.

P.P.S., Vol. II., 325.

November 19.

ST. PAUL calls elect souls vessels of honour: of honour, because they are elect or chosen; and vessels, because, through the love of God, they are filled with God's heavenly and holy grace.

M. & D. 75.

November 20.

No Christian is so humble but he has Angels to attend on him, if he lives by faith and love.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 204.

November 21.

EXHAUST the sea, it will not fill the infinite spaces of the heavens, but the gift within us may be drawn out till it fills eternity.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 344.

November 22.

THE love of Jesus Christ is the most sure pledge of our future happiness, and the most infallible token of our pre-destination.

D. of A., Vol. 2., 94.

November 23.

O God, Thou art Thyself the seat and centre of all good, and the only substance in this universe of shadows, and the heaven in which blessed spirits live and rejoice.

M. & D. 602.

November 24.

NARROW, indeed, is the way of life, but infinite is His love and power who is with the Church, in Christ's place, to guide us along it.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 14.

November 25.

LET us be sure that those whom God loves He takes away, each of them, one by one, at the very best time for their eternal interests.

S.V.O. 279.

November 26.

LET us simply obey God's will, whatever may befall; whether it tend to elate us or depress us, what is that to us? He can turn all things to our eternal good.

P.P.S., Vol. IV., 78.

November 27.

NEVER speak confidently about yourselves, nor contemptuously of the religiousness of others, nor lightly of sacred things; guard your eyes, guard the first springs of thought, be jealous of yourselves when alone, neglect not your daily prayers, pray specially and continually for the gift of perseverance.

————— D.M.C. 143.

November 28.

IF God use you not, even till the eleventh hour, He can make that hour a thousand, and can reward you in proportion to the years of your patient waiting.

S.S.D. 50.

November 29.

BE you content with nothing short of perfection ; exact yourselves day by day to grow in knowledge and grace ; that, if so be, you may at length attain to the Presence of Almighty God.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 13.

November 30.

MAY God support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

S.S.D. 347

December 1.

WE must do good for evil, "love those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who despitefully use us."

P.P.S., Vol. III., 185.

December 2.

THOSE who serve God faithfully have a friend of their own, in each man's bosom, witnessing for them; even in those who treat them ill.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 25.

December 3.

FAITH is the gift of God, and not a mere act of our own, which we are free to exert when we will. It is quite distinct from an exercise of reason, though it follows upon it.

D.M.C. 225.

December 4.

THE pleasures of sin are not to be compared in fullness and intensity to the pleasures of holy living.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 197.

December 5.

IT is the happiness of Saints and Angels in heaven to take pleasure in their duty ; and nothing but their duty ; for their mind goes that one way, and pours itself out in obedience to God.

P.P.S., Vol. III., 92.

December 6.

NOTHING short of God's Presence is our true refuge ; everything else is either a mockery, or but an expedient useful for its season or in its measure.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 325.

December 7.

To hate is to feel that perfect distaste for an object, that you wish to put away and get rid of ; it is to turn away from it and to blot out the thought of it from your mind.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 96.

December 8.

By the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin is meant the great revealed truth that she was conceived in the womb of her mother without original sin.

M. & D. 10.

December 9.

COME to Mass as often as you can, visit the Blessed Sacrament, make frequent acts of faith and love, and try to live in the Presence of God.

D.M.C. 143.

December 10.

GOD requires nothing of us beyond our strength, but the utmost according to our strength.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 34.

December 11.

LET us strive and pray that the love of holiness may be created within our hearts, and then acts will follow, such as befit us and our circumstances, in due time, without our distressing ourselves to find what they should be.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 100.

December 12.

To be spiritually-minded is to see by faith all those good and holy things who actually surround us, though we see them not with our bodily eyes.

————— M. & D. 78.

December 13.

HAPPY is he whose way is God's way ; when he is used to it, it is as easy as any other way—nay, much easier, for God's service is perfect freedom, whereas Satan is a cruel taskmaster.

P.P.S., Vol. VI., 37.

December 14.

IF we would be followers of the great Apostle St. Paul, first let us with him fix our eyes upon Christ our Saviour ; consider the splendour and glory of His holiness, and try to love it.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 99.

December 15.

IF we judge ourselves, through God's mercy we shall not be judged of Him ; if we do not afflict ourselves in light things, He will afflict us in heavy things.

P.P.S., Vol. VII., 110.

December 16.

THE Catholic, and he alone, has within him that union of external with internal notes of God's favour, which sheds the light of conviction over his soul, and makes him both fearless in his faith, and calm and thankful in his hope.

D. of A., Vol. I., 95.

December 17.

HEAVEN is not a place where many different and discordant pursuits can be carried out at once, as is the case in this world. Here every man can do his own pleasure, but there he must do God's pleasure.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 4.

December 18.

IF the Creator comes on earth in the form of a servant and a creature, why may not His Mother on the other hand rise to be Queen of heaven, and be clothed with the sun, and to have the moon under her feet.

D.M.C. 356.

December 19.

No repentance is truly such without love; it is love which gives it its efficacy in God's sight. Without love there may be remorse, regret, self-reproach, self-condemnation, but there is not saving penitence.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 334.

December 20.

THE Eternal Word, the Only-begotten Son of the Father, put off His glory and came down upon earth, to raise us to heaven.

D.M.C. 285.

December 21.

O MY God, Thou dost over-abound in mercy ! To live by faith is my necessity, from my present state of being, and from my sin, but Thou hast pronounced a blessing on it.

M. & D. 495.

December 22.

LET us wait for Almighty God solemnly, fearfully, hopefully, patiently, obediently ; let us be resigned to His will, while active in good works.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 12.

December 23.

GOD alone has an entrance into our soul, reads our secret thoughts, speaks to our heart, applies to us spiritual pardon and strength. On Him we solely depend.

D. of A., Vol. II., 84.

December 24.

GOD has not made us for nought; He has brought us thus far, in order to bring us further, in order to bring us on to the end.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 85.

December 25.

MAY each Christmas find us more and more like our Saviour, who as at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.

P.P.S. Vol. V., 98.

December 26.

THE main purpose of our Saviour's incarnation, as far as we are permitted to know it, was that of reconciling us to God, and purchasing for us eternal life by His sufferings and death.

O.U.S. 16.

December 27.

IF He, the Creator, came into His own world, not for His own pleasure, but to do His Father's will, we too have most surely some work to do, and have seriously to bethink ourselves what that work is.

D.M.C. 111.

December 28.

To obtain the gift of holiness is the work of a life. No man will ever be perfect here, so sinful is our nature.

P.P.S., Vol. I., 12.

December 29.

THERE will ever be persons who take a favourable view of human nature, as it actually is found in the world, and of the spiritual condition of the prospects of mankind.

————— O.U.S. 99.

December 30.

GRACE is lodged in the heart; it purifies the thoughts and motives, it raises the soul to God, it sanctifies the body, it corrects and exalts human nature in regard to those sins of which men are ashamed, and do not make a public display.

————— D.M.C. 152.

December 31.

MAY it be our blessedness, as years go on, to add one grace to another, and advance upward, step by step, neither neglecting the lower after attaining the higher, nor aiming at the higher before attaining the lower.

P.P.S., Vol. V., 71.

